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Marie Steele to Sam Steele

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162 Hutchison St.
Sept. 17th, 9 p.m.

My own darling Boy,

Your telegram came this morning & I intend answering in a minute when Torla's guests are gone home. As I had been to Labelle's & chosen most of the furniture & comparing it with prices up there, think it cheaper here. I hope you will be pleased with my efforts. I spent two days there not even going for a bite of lunch, consequently was from half past eight a.m. until 6:30 p.m. without tasting anything. Yesterday & today I could not spare the time for luncheon, it being some distance from Carsley's & being very anxious to get things together speedily in order that the car can go

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by Friday or Saturday, as it takes some time to get all in readiness for the trip. Of course, between carpets, furniture, bed & bedding I could not limit myself to four hundred - try as I would, it was impossible to furnish the house as you desired it to be & not go beyond that, so I do hope you will not think me extravagant. Truth to tell, our sideboard & dining room chairs & couch cost more in Pretoria than all we have purchased here. I hope & pray if we have to sell again that we will not lose on these things as we did there. Your 10th and two 11th letters came to me yesterday & really rested one after a very fatiguing day as I told you a short time ago. I hope your letter to Mr. McNichol will

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be of benefit in getting the car rushed through. Thanks for writing acknowledging Bob's & Regie's photo. I have no time for any one but you, my darling, just now.

I sincerely hope your cough is better - mother is still confined to her bed as her cough is not much relieved. The Dr. said today she has had a touch of pleurisy also, so has been pretty ill I assure you -

fortunately, we were still here to look after her. It worries me to know you have been so unwell, my dear old pet. As the weather changed, your cold may have left you. You are well enough to watch "the ladies slipping along in pure white" from your window, so I am convinced you are on the mend. I feel sure we shall be comfortable when we are settled & I hope you will think I made a good choice of everything. Yes, the pension & pay came all right, my dear.

Your second letter of same date is open before me in which you say you cannot find the [tanall] notebook which contained the no's of cases. I feel sure it was in one of your trunks, the steamer one maybe, for I saw it when here it seems to me. It was a small black leather one such as you used in the S.A.C. - it might be in a box with other books in the tray of your steamer trunk for all I know. Mother's cases are numbered 24, 25 & 26 I think - she has those no's in a notebook here.

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I shall ask Gus when I see him about it. Capt. Macdonnell has gone to Ottawa for a few days - so far, has heard nothing more about having to return to attend to his brother's estate. You know long ere this that Morgan would not oblige us & I fancy we did not lose by the change - the variety may not be as great as Morgan's, but it is good & much cheaper. Bob kindly came down this morning to see my choice & give me his good advice - he found all very nice, first-class & reasonable & told Mother so when he called to see her this p.m. before I returned. Morgan's terms were \$150.00 cash down & \$100.00 monthly for about \$300.00 no more. I could not accept the terms nor limit myself to the [terms] - we would have had

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very little at their prices for that amt. - as it is the house is well furnished & I feel sure you will not be angry at my spending more than you first said. Your nice letter of the 12th is now awaiting an answer. Mother will miss me, I know, but the others not as much of course. Gertie is having her teeth attended to by Frank & so is Torla. Mother will be more careful - this last illness frightened her, I know.

Your last to Gertrude produced a deep impression, as she is sure you will send her in a boarder if she annoys me. Am delighted Capt. Mackie is to be left with you for sometime longer - you like him & he knows your ways. The Yankees are sure to have everything to help them in anything - do not mind if "peep" sights

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are contrary to Ass'n. rules. Your muscles are in first rate condition & it will take more than a cold to make a difference in them. So pleased the servants are attentive. Mr. Labelle does not want a note. I think Gus arranged \$100.00 down & \$50.00 monthly until paid. I saw in the paper that [Howard] had returned from the north. I suppose the loneliness was more than he could stand, poor man. I saw photos of Esquimos' & find them pretty too. It is too bad Mrs. Mac was so easily gulled poor thing! She will regret it bitterly, when she realizes it. I did not know she was not friendly with Mrs. Henderson & did not associate with her also. I shall give the car about a week or so, ere I leave in order that the things will be there on time.

Yours of the 13th is now in hand & I received it when I came in at 6:30 tonight after a hard days work - too bad the frost came - it will end the garden stuff too I fear. You are quite right - I never made a confidante of Mrs. Wroughten & would never have told her, even had I not cared for Marguerite. [Corinne] was the one I did not care for. Marguerite was always nice to the children & I appreciated that. The only letter I ever got from Marguerite was one with her photo sent me on her way up to the Yukon & I answered that, acknowledging & thanking her for remembering me. Minnie said Marguerite sent me the first baby's picture, but if she did, it never reached me & I got no other letters, I am sure. One cannot wonder that Mrs. Mac & Mrs.

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Davis are not cheerful - it is hard to get over one's grief. Is it your friend, Arthur Duncan who is in B.C.? when did he come over? Too bad he met with such a serious accident, but nice that he met with kind treatment. Have you heard anything of his cousin? So pleased to know he found Gus to his taste - the latter is thin I find. Lighthall has been away all summer, so has had all the holidays - poor Gus, has had no change & not many days off. He must come up and see us next year. I feel sure the trip would be beneficial in every way. I perused Minnie's letter with pleasure & return it - she wrote Frank congratulating him today. Some women are eager to make mischief, are they not? Mrs. Wroughten must be pretty lonely

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without dear Frank in Dawson. Are the women great swells in Calgary. I suppose you will say you do not know, but I am well aware

that you do cast sly glances at them without letting on, my dear & take them all in too. It is very late so I must leave you, my own darling. All are well, I mean our little chicks. Torla has a slight cold, nothing serious. God bless & keep you my own dear sweetheart. With many tender loving embraces & the hope that you shall enjoy many nights of splendid rest & sweet dreams in the nice bed I have chosen for you. Believe me,

my own darling

Your ever true, devoted little wifie,

Maye

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